

HA-1788  
c. 1934-1935  
Bel Air  
Private

The Keech-Rosenberg House, 42 W. Gordon, faces south in a block of tree-shaded houses built in Richardson's Addition in the 1930s and 1940s. A 2 story, 3 bay white clapboard house built in 1934 or 1935, it is the only one to have a definite style; it is a Dutch colonial.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. Indian Hill is the part of the addition reserved around the Richardson home place of the same name which faced Main Street. The heirs subdivided it in 1931 when they sold the house. This stylish Dutch colonial is the only one of its kind in the neighborhood, although there are two in Ingleside [HA-1832 and HA-1841] built in the early 1920s. Bel Air residents did not build in the revival styles much in the interwar years, preferring instead the bungalow and the four-square. The house was built for J. Harold Keech in 1934-1935.

HA-1788  
Keech-Rosenberg House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

☐ 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

☒ 12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community  
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Keech-Rosenberg House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 42 W. Gordon St. n/a not for publication

city, town Bel Air vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state MD county Harford

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>X</u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<u>X</u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>X</u> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Grace Ruth Rosenberg

street & number 3410 Old Court Rd. telephone no.: unlisted

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21208

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 152

street & number    folio 260

city, town Bel Air state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. A-1788

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The Keech-Rosenberg House, 42 W. Gordon, faces south in a block of tree-shaded houses built in the 1930s and 1940s. A 2 story, 3 bay white clapboard house built in 1934 or 1935, it is the only one to have a definite style; it is one of 3 Dutch colonials built in Bel Air between the World Wars. The other 2 are in Ingleside [HA-1832 and HA-1841].

Its full width shed dormers front and rear, its paired 6/1 double-hung sash windows flanked by black shutters, and its sun room (east ) with a crowning balustrade make it typical of this comfortable style. Its gabled portico has a slight return and is carried on 2 round columns. There is a single story gabled addition in the center bay of the rear (north) elevation. The interior was not accessible.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. A-1788

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1934-1935 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition, begun at the same time, are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. Indian Hill is the part of the addition reserved around the Richardson home place of the same name which faced Main Street. The heirs subdivided it in 1931 when they sold the house.

This stylish Dutch colonial is the only one of its kind in the neighborhood, although there are two in Ingleside [HA-1832 and HA-1841] built in the early 1920s. Bel Air residents did not build in the revival styles much in the interwar years, preferring instead the bungalow and the four-square. The house was built for J. Harold Keech in 1934-1935.

Aaron Rosenberg, the manager of the Hub, a furniture store on Main Street, bought the property in 1948. His widow, Grace Ruth Rosenberg, is now in a nursing home in Baltimore, and the house is vacant. As a result the interior was not available to the surveyor. The only obvious alteration is a gabled single-story addition in the middle bay of the rear (north) elevation, done by the Rosenbergs in the 1960s.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1708

Harford County Land Records

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Foster, 30 April 1993.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Bel AirQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 488 in the Town of Bel Air, 13,275 sq. ft.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Dr. Marilyn M. Larew		
organization	date	6-2-93	
street & number	RD 1 Box 219 New Park Rd.	telephone	717-993-3557
city or town	New Park	state	PA 17352

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

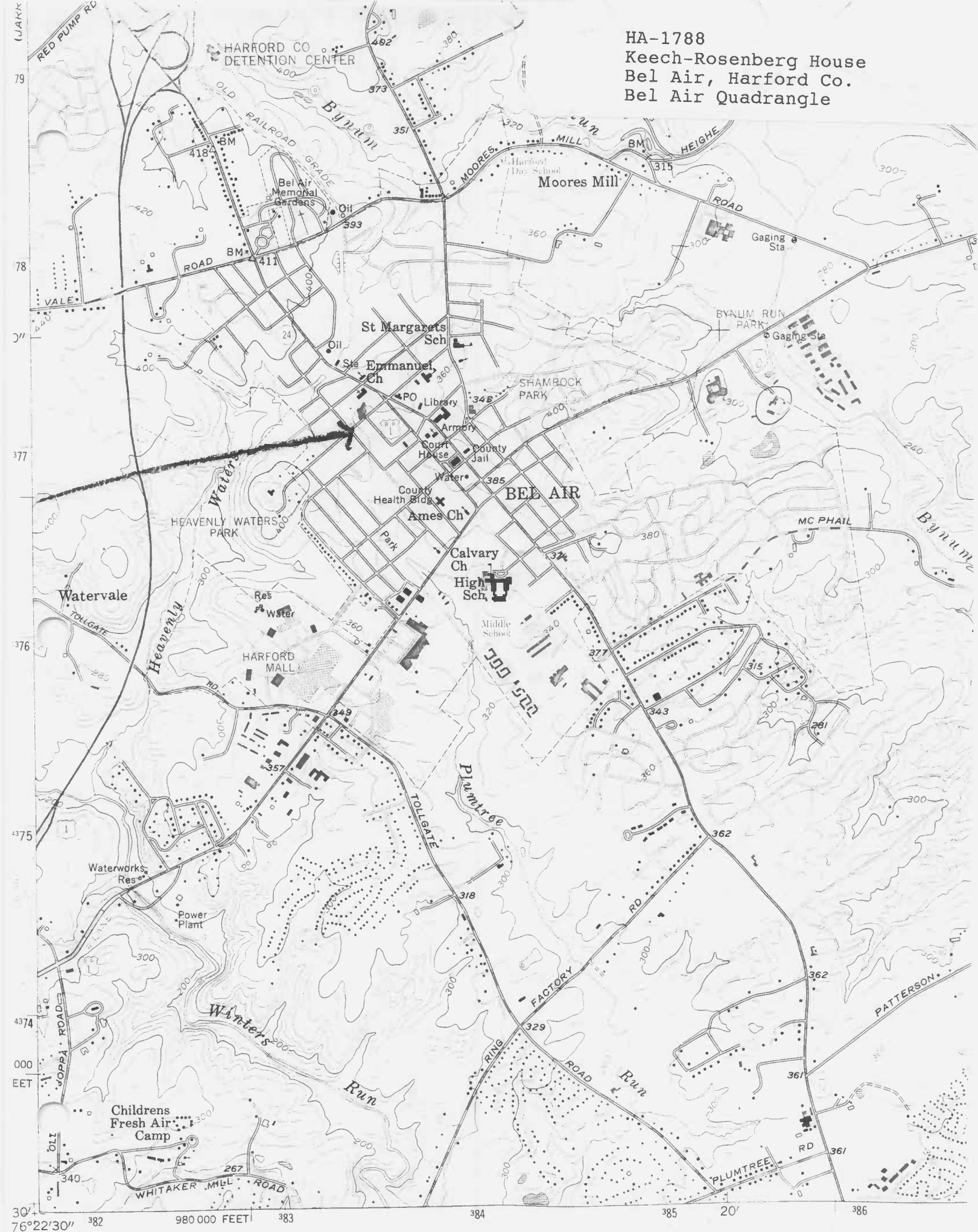
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCE  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-2400

HA-1788  
Keech-Rosenberg House  
42 W. Gordon St.  
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Grace Ruth Rosenberg

- 315/226            11 May 1948  
Clyde W. Britt and Mattie R.  
to  
Aaron I. Rosenberg and Grace Ruth  
lots 12-14 of Indian Hill
- 297/210            27 June 1946  
J. Harold Keech and Helen C.  
Henry Clay Wathen by Frances B. Wathen, his attorney  
Frances B. Wathen  
to  
Clyde W. Britt and Mattie R.  
the Wathens join in the conveyance because of an  
unrecorded contract of sale 10 Apr 1946
- 234/229            13 Nov 1934  
Main E. Little and Lyda S.  
to  
J. Harold Keech and Helen C.
- 234/229            12 Nov 1934  
part of  
Germantown Permanent Bldg. Assoc.  
to  
Main Little and Lyda S.
- 203/135            4 June 1931  
Frederick J. Schlosstein, attorney, of Baltimore  
to  
Germantown Permanent Bldg. Assoc.  
the defaulted Kraft mortgage 182//84 16 Mar 1923 of  
Joseph and Elsie Kraft, who owned the whole block

HA-1788  
 Keech-Rosenberg House  
 Bel Air, Harford Co.  
 Bel Air Quadrangle







LA 707  
KEZCH + ROSE LINDA & ALBERT  
LAP = 1000 - 1000 10  
11 - 2000 10  
7/10  
2000 10  
S. P. 10  
10

42 W. GORDON ST  
BEL AIR